

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**History 2640G 550
European Imperialism in Africa**

Course Outline

**Department of History
Huron University College
Winter 2022**

History 2640G European Imperialism in Africa, 1830-1994
Instructor: Dr. Deanne van Tol
E-mail address: dvantol2@uwo.ca
Scheduled class times: Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30pm
Classroom: W108
Office Hours: online via Zoom, by appointment
Course Website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a survey of the major historical transformations of modern Africa from the late nineteenth century to the present, with special attention to a critical analysis of European imperial engagement on the continent. Students will be challenged to think critically about representations of Africa as a continent of poverty and external domination, and to appreciate instead something of the past and present diversity and complexity of the continent, the nuance of its integration in world history and current global affairs, and the possibilities and limits of its historical actors.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify key concepts in—and articulate the basic chronology of—modern African history, describing elements of continuity and change over time and between diverse geographic contexts on the continent.
2. Apply a critical lens to issues in, and representations of, historical colonialism in Africa.
3. Analyze evidence in support of an argument in verbal and written forms of communication.
4. Articulate the relevance of historical interpretation to current global issues.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS METHODS

This class meets once per week for three hours. Classes will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and activities. Regular class participation is a key component of the final course grade.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED RESOURCES

Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (1988) [any edition]

Amié Césaire, *Resolutely Black: Conversations with Françoise Vergès* (Polity Press, 2020)

*Note: Both texts are available for purchase at the Western Campus Bookstore and online. Copies of each have been placed on reserve at the Huron Library. *Resolutely Black* is also available as an ebook via Western Libraries. Neither text is required until the mid-point of the course, so you have some time to locate copies. If you have trouble accessing copies of these texts for any reason please get in touch with the course instructor to make alternate arrangements.

All other course readings will be posted on OWL.

There is no textbook for this course, but you may find the following a useful reference throughout the course (e.g. for looking up unfamiliar themes, definitions, names, etc.): Immanuel Ness & Zak Cope (eds.), *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism*, 2nd edition, (Palgrave, 2020) https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/v6pq4a/alma991045045544405163 (uwo login required)

METHOD OF EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

Assessment	Due Date	Weight
Participation	ongoing	30%
Critical Museums Assignment	February 11	35%
Essay Assignment	March 23	35%

Participation

You are expected to complete the assigned readings, and to contribute to weekly discussion with your peers in a respectful and informed manner. The ability to raise thoughtful questions, to make connections, to build constructively on the ideas of others, and to explore ways of resolving/pursuing questions, are as important as a demonstration of a mastery of “the facts.” Discussion grades will be based on reflection and self-evaluation. More detailed instructions will be provided.

Critical Museums Assignment

Short answer questions focussed on the role of museums and collecting in shaping narratives of colonial African history. Assignment will be completed during class time. More detailed instructions will be provided.

Essay Assignment

An argumentative essay of 6-8 pages (double spaced, 2.54 cm margins, 12 pt Times New Roman) analyzing the text Amié Césaire, *Resolutely Black: Conversations with Françoise Vergès* in relation to course themes. More detailed instructions will be provided.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES & READINGS

Week 1 (Jan 12)

Lecture: Introductions

Discussion:

Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to Write About Africa," *Granta* 92 (Winter 2005)

Week 2 (Jan 19)

Lecture: Africa Before 1884

Discussion: The Image of Africa

Chinua Achebe, "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness'," *Massachusetts Review* 18 (1977)

Alexis Okeowo, "How Saidiya Hartman Retells the History of Black Life," *The New Yorker*, 19 October 2020

Week 3 (Jan 26)

Lecture: European Colonial Conquest and Rule

Discussion: Colonial Rule in Practice

Wole Soyinka, "Death and the King's Horsemen" (1975)

Week 4 (Feb 2)

Lecture: The Experience of South Africa

Discussion: Race Relations

Doris Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* (1950), Chapters 1 & 2

Week 5 (Feb 9) Critical Museums Assignment

Week 6 (Feb 16)

Lecture: Pan-Africanism and Early Anticolonial Thought

Discussion: Responses to Colonialism

W.E.B. du Bois, "To the Nations of the World" (1900)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Headstrong Historian," in *The Thing Around Your Neck* (2009), p. 198-218

- Week 7 (Feb 23) Reading Week- No Class
- Week 8 (Mar 2)
Lecture: Africa and Global War
Discussion: The Experience of Youth
 Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (1988), Chapters 1-4
- Week 9 (Mar 9)
Lecture: Science, Medicine, and the Post-War Welfare State
Discussion: Youth, continued...
 Nervous Conditions, Chapters 5-10
- Week 10 (Mar 16)
Lecture: Decolonization and Independence
Discussion: Anticolonialism
 Ami  C saire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (1955), p. 1-8
 Frantz Fanon, "Concerning Violence" in *The Wretched of the Earth* (1963), p. 35-105
- Week 11 (Mar 23)
Lecture: Nation-Building & Challenge
Discussion: Apartheid
 Steve Biko, "We Blacks" in *I Write What I Like* (1978)
- Week 12 (Mar 30)
Lecture: Structural Adjustment and the Rise of the NGO
Discussion: Diaspora
 Maya Angelou, *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes* (New York, 1986), p. 3-53; 96-105
- Week 13 (Apr 6) Course Wrap Up
Discussion: (Post?) Colonial Histories
 Katherine McKittrick, "Footnotes: Books and Papers Scattered about the Floor" in *Dear Science and Other Stories* (Duke University Press, 2020), p. 13-34

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Mandatory Use of Masks in Classrooms

Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Huron policy and public health directives. Students are now permitted to drink water in class by lifting and replacing the mask each time a drink is taken. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Huron policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean's Office, and such actions will be considered a violation of the Huron Student Code of Conduct.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the

permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The

appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com

(<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider**

carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.